

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for providing a nucleic acid from a mammalian species sample not previously isolated or treated with a cell lysing reagent, comprising the steps of:

A) admixed in buffer at a pH of less than 7, contacting a sample suspected of containing a nucleic acid with a water-soluble, weakly basic polymer [[comprised of recurring units]] derived by addition polymerization of:

1) from about 15 to 100 weight percent of a water-soluble, weakly basic ethylenically unsaturated polymerizable monomer having at least one group which can be protonated at acidic pH and which is selected from the group consisting of aminoalkyl, imidazolyl, isoxazolyl, pyridyl, piperidyl, piperazinyl, pyrazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, oxadiazolyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidyl, pyrazinyl, quinolinyl and quinazolinyl,

2) from 0 to about 35 weight percent of a nonionic, hydrophilic ethylenically unsaturated polymerizable monomer, and

3) from 0 to about 85 weight percent of a nonionic, hydrophobic ethylenically unsaturated polymerizable monomer in an amount sufficient to

form a water-insoluble precipitate of said weakly basic polymer with all nucleic acids present in said lysate,

B) separating said water-insoluble precipitate from said sample, and

C) contacting said precipitate with a base to raise the [[solution]] buffer pH to greater than 7, and thereby releasing said nucleic acids from said weakly basic polymer,

said weakly basic polymer [[comprising recurring units]] derived by addition polymerization of one or more ethylenically unsaturated polymerizable monomers having an amine group which can be protonated at acidic pH.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step:

D) adjusting the pH of said solution containing said released nucleic acids to from about 6 to about 9.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said base is sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, ammonium hydroxide, lithium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, a tertiary amine or tris(hydroxymethyl)-aminomethane.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said weakly basic polymer is used in step A) in an amount of from about 0.01 to about 0.5 weight %.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein a weak base is used in step C), accompanied by heating said water-insoluble precipitate at from about 50° to about 125° C.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein a strong base is used in step C) without heating said water-insoluble precipitate.

Claims 7-22 (Canceled)